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**News Weekly**

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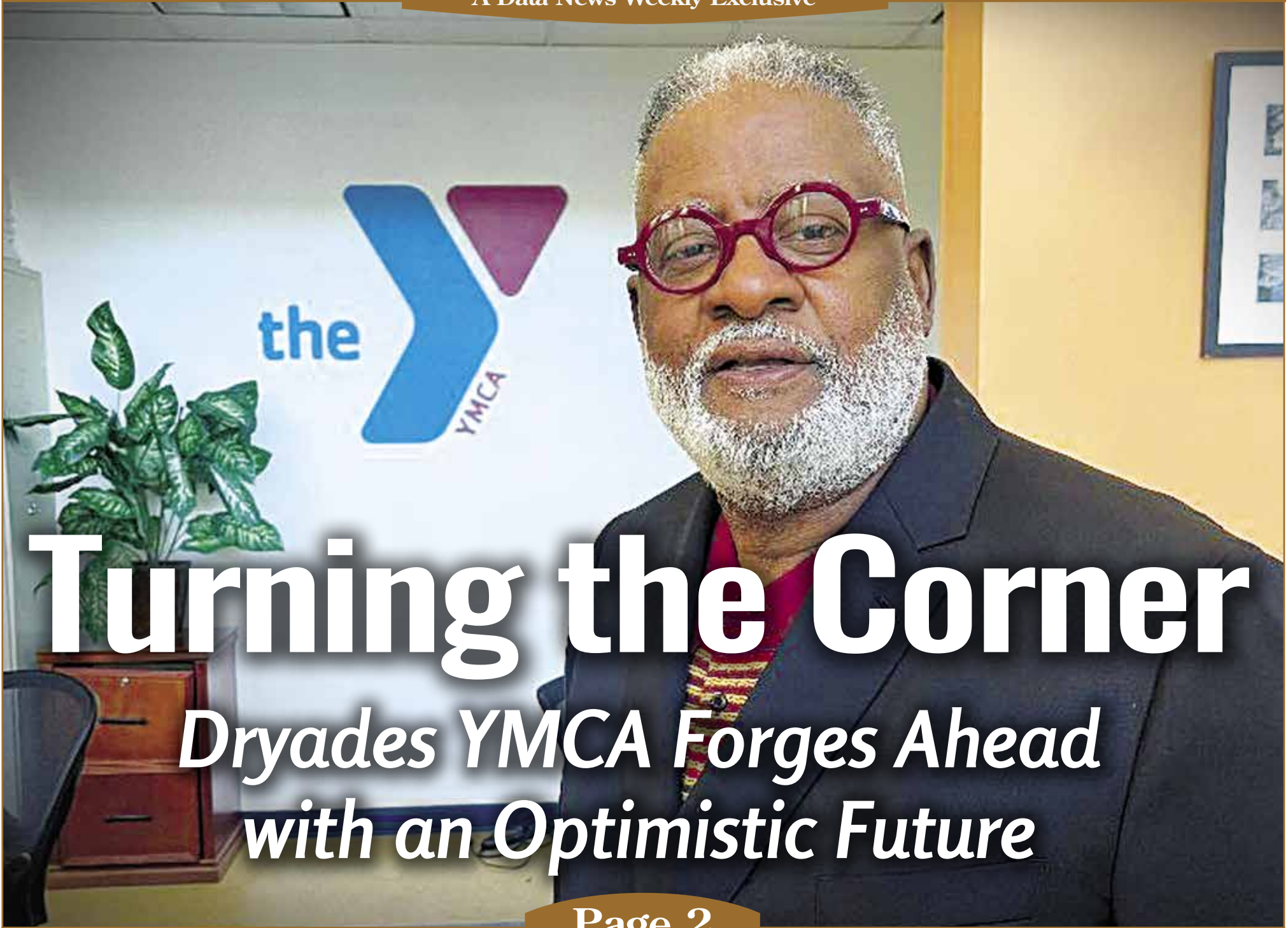


**All Things Magenta**

**Data Zone**  
**Page 4**

March 4 - March 10, 2023 57th Year Volume 45 [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com)

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# Turning the Corner

*Dryades YMCA Forges Ahead  
with an Optimistic Future*

**Page 2**



**Newsmaker**  
**HBCU**  
**Legacy**  
**Bowl**

**Page 6**

**State & Local**  
**Malcolm X Family**  
**to File Wrongful**  
**Death Lawsuit**



**Page 7**

# Turning the Corner

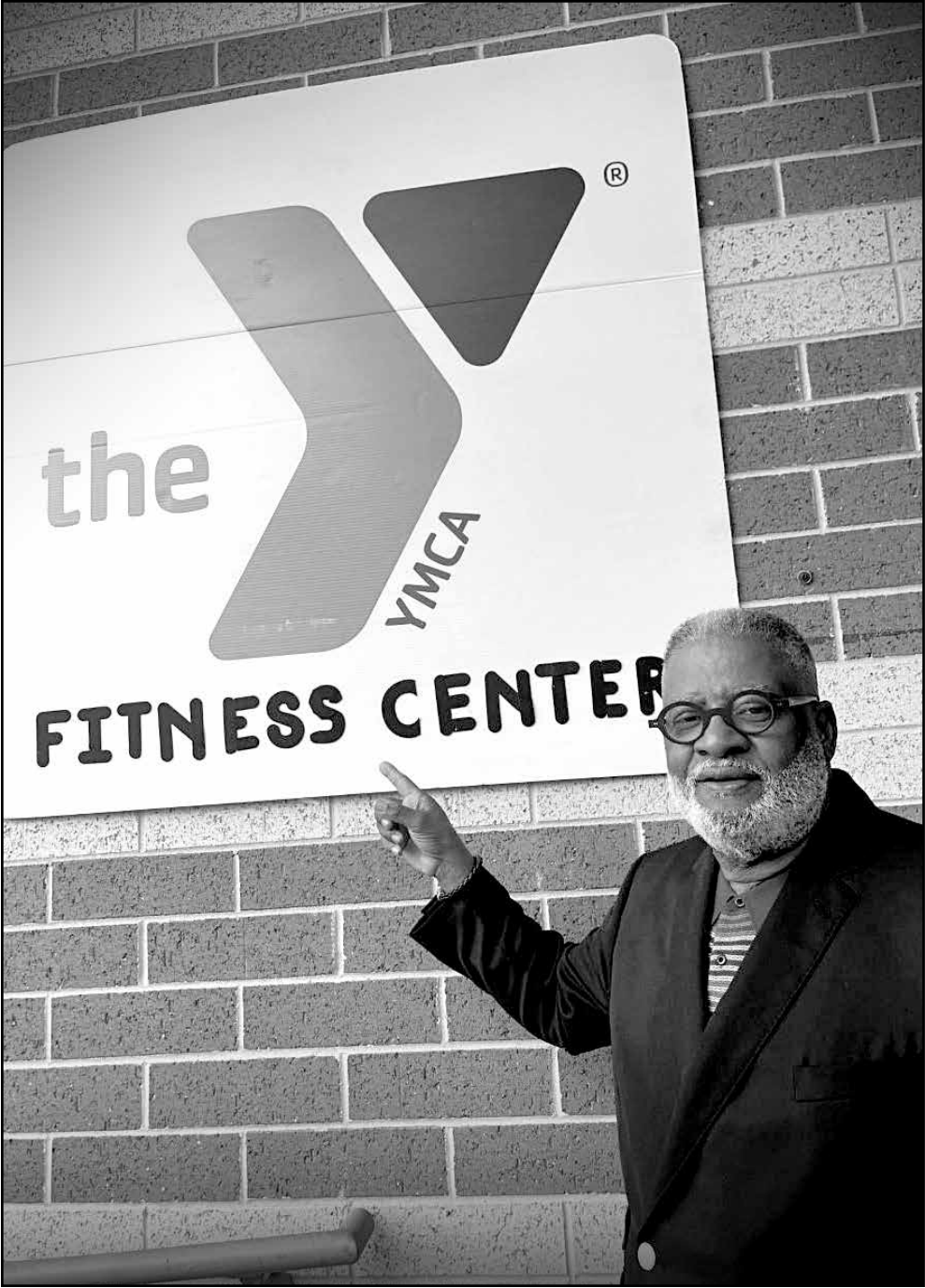
*Dryades YMCA Forges Ahead with an Optimistic Future*

**Eric Connerly**  
Data News Weekly Contributor

Although the James Singleton Charter School shut its doors in June of 2022, the Dryades YMCA is showing no signs of slowing down. Amidst a cloud of legal challenges associated with the former school, the YMCA is turning the corner with a major overhaul of its modus operandi as it undergoes upcoming strategic planning with the Y USA to shore up the continuity of this Central City legacy institution that has operated since 1905 as an integral part of New Orleans and the Greater Metropolitan Area, and which has historically provided educational, recreational, and social services to meet the needs of the African-American community during segregation. Newly elected board chair, Bishop Tom Watson is no stranger, to the “Y.” He was voted chairman of the board in August 2022, succeeding the late Barbara Lacen Keller, a longtime Central City activist and affiliate of the “Y.” Having grown up in this community and benefitting from the “Y”’s services is what motivates Watson’s leadership to turn around the embattled organization. Watson, a Master’s level social worker, understands the importance of sustaining this institution and ensuring that members of the community continue to benefit from the programs and services offered by the “Y.” Now, as board chair, Watson is up for the enduring fight to stabilize and make the necessary changes to ensure the viability of the organization and rid it of operational inefficiencies that once doomed the more than a century old institution. Under the current board leadership, a strategic partnership has been formed between the City of New Orleans Office of Job 1 and the Dryades YMCA, which

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

**On the cover:** Bishop Tom Watson, Chairman of the “The Y,” stands at the front reception desk in the main entrance foyer of the former James Singleton Charter School.



Newly elected “Y” Board Chair, Bishop Tom Watson.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story . . . . .	2
Data Zone . . . . .	4
Newsmaker . . . . .	6
National News . . . . .	7

### DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



will bring Job 1's operations to the Dryades Y Myrtle Banks Building on Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. Watson emphasizes, "This is not just a tenant and landlord relationship, but a flagship partnership with the 'Y' that will yield vocational training opportunities and other workforce initiatives."

With affordable childcare being in demand, the "Y" is nearly doubling its current capacity from 40 toddlers to serve more children and to accommodate an ever-growing waitlist. Under the recently appointed Director, Stephanie Cockerham, who boasts 30 years of experience working in high quality childcare centers around town, Cockerham plans to import those quality enhancements that she's worked under to the "Y"'s program by making immediate upgrades to the facilities and curriculum. "We are in the process of implementing the Creative Curriculum, which is a research-based, best practice curriculum for early childhood and advancing the professional development of our entire staff," Cockerham declared.

As a prominent spiritual leader in the community, Watson believes he is the right chairman at the right time, as he plans to restore the faith component, which represents the "C" in YMCA, the organization whose mission is to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build a healthy spirit, mind and body for all. Watson sees

an opportunity to focus on holistic wellness through the "Y"'s Wellness Center. "Spirituality is the triad to physical and mental well-being," said the board chairman. "So, the Health and Wellness Center at the 'Y' will also see a facelift, making the programs more relevant and accessible to the community, especially seniors—and, taking a more holistic approach."

A partnership with the Council on Aging will soon bring forth daytime recreational activities for seniors. Promoting healthy eating will come through the Cyber Café, which the organization plans to launch, and will be reminiscent of deli counters operated at the "Y" during the 1960's-70's when Blacks had limited access to food establishments. The modern version is intended to bring the community together and provide access to hi-speed Wi-Fi. It is planned to be located at the school's old library building. Watson acknowledges, in order to continue the momentum and bring a refreshed operating culture to The Dryades YMCA, "we will be recruiting new board members through our strategic planning process who are energized and ready to take the Dryades YMCA to new heights in its potential for this community." Repeat of the Zion Williamson Youth Basketball Camp and the Traditional Youth Summer Camp program are forthcoming.



Bishop Watson shows off new state-of-the-art facilities and furnishings for the Early Childhood Education Program at "The Y."



Bishop Watson joins students currently attending "The Y"'s Early Childhood Education Center during recess.

Help Wanted

## Administrative Assistant

- Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.
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- Writing skills and detail orientation will be appreciated.

Call (504) 821-7421 to apply.

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# All Things Viva Magenta

## *the 'IT' Color for Spring 2023!*



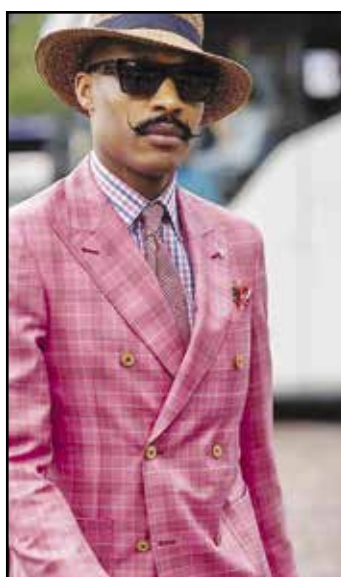
**Tracee Dundas**  
Fashion Stylist

As the temperature begins to rise and signs of Spring emerge, every fashionista is storing their winter wears and has their eyes on global color institute Pantone to reveal its highly anticipated "Color of the Year" for 2023. This annual selection is made by a panel of experts who study and analyze current trends, cultural influences, and global happenings to determine the hue that best reflects the mood and spirit of the times. The Pantone "Color of the Year" has become a significant event in the design world, with companies and individuals looking to incorporate the chosen shade into their products and spaces.

The "Color of the Year" for 2023 is Viva Magenta, which the company describes as powerful and empowering. Viva Magenta is brave and fearless, and a pulsating color whose exuberance promotes a joyous and optimistic celebration. It revels in pure joy, encouraging experimentation and self-expression without restraint.

The word "viva" is derived from the Latin word "vivus", meaning alive and vibrant. The term "magenta" refers to a specific shade of pinkish-purple, which is often associated with energy, creativity, and boldness.

Be prepared to "go big or go home" with this bold and vibrant shade that will turn heads and make a statement everywhere this spring season. From monochromatic fashion statements to accent pieces and accessories, this electric hue will have a presence like no other in both men's and women's fashion.



Fashion Stylist: Tracee Dundas | @fashionablyyoursnola  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF PINTEREST  
Tracee Dundas FASHION EDITOR @fashionablyyoursnola

Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events.



# Anthony Bean Community Theater Holds Auditions for The Bodyguard (The Musical)

*March 11th and 12th*

## Data News Staff Edited Report

Synopsis: Former Secret Service agent turned bodyguard Frank Farmer is hired to protect superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge; what they don't expect is to fall in love.

A breathtakingly romantic thriller, "The Bodyguard" features a host of irresistible classics, including 'Queen of the Night,' 'So Emotional,' 'One Moment in Time,' 'Saving All My Love,' 'Run to You,' 'I Have Nothing,' 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody' and one of the biggest selling songs of all time – 'I Will Always Love You.'

## Musical "The Bodyguard"

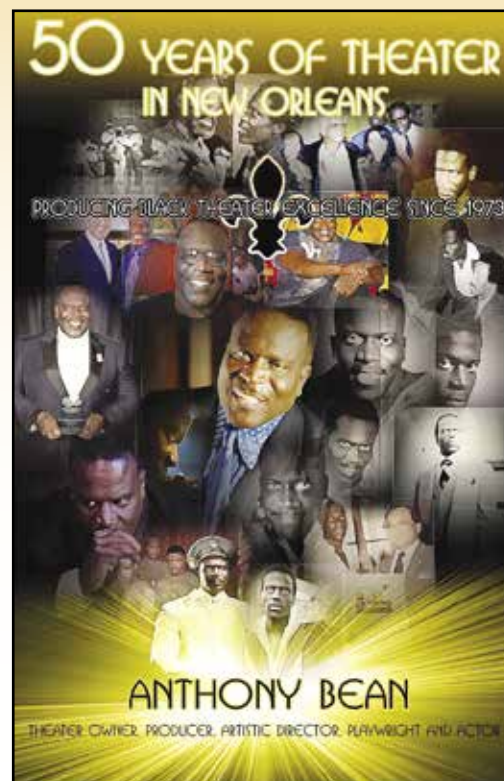
Audition Dates:  
**Saturday, March 11th  
& Sunday, March 12th  
at 1pm to 5pm**

CALL BACK:  
**Saturday, March 18th  
at 1pm to 5pm**

Location: **ABCT ACTOR STUDIO  
4527 Tchoupitoulas Street  
New Orleans, LA 70115  
(504) 862-PLAY**

Show dates:  
**June 2-18 at Anthony Bean  
Community Theater**

AUDITIONS ARE STRICTLY  
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Email submissions to:  
plays@anthonybeantheater.com



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# HBCU Legacy Bowl

Data News Staff Edited Report

Team Robinson prevailed over Team Gaither 10-3 in front of 25,900 cheering fans at the 2nd HBCU Legacy Bowl in New Orleans, LA, on Saturday, Feb. 25. The week-long all-star game is evolving into a classic event, much like the Reese’s Senior Bowl, for the NFL scouts and decision-makers to visit and evaluate draft-eligible players ahead of the NFL Draft in April.

Several performances in the game may have NFL teams reassessing their draft boards and including a few participating players for further analysis. The game may not have included offensive explosions by both squads, but the defensive play was noteworthy.

HBCU Legacy Bowl co-founders



HBCU Legacy Bowl co-founders James “Shack” Harris and Doug Williams present the Offensive and Defensive MVP Awards to Xavier Smith (FAMU) and Jason Dumas (Southern), respectively. Credit: HBCU Legacy Bowl© Provided by HBCU Legends on FanNation

James “Shack” Harris and Doug Williams present the Offensive and Defensive MVP Awards to Xavier Smith (FAMU) and Jason Dumas (Southern), respectively. Credit: HBCU Legacy Bowl© Provided by HBCU Legends on FanNation

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**SAVE \$3.74 EA**

**ONLY 4/\$5**  
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16 OZ CONTAINER  
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**HALF Boneless Pork Loin**  
**\$1.77 LB**

**SAVE \$1.99 ON TWO**

**3 LB BAG U.S. #1 Yellow Onions**  
**2/\$3**  
LIMIT 4

**SAVE \$1.50**

**8 OZ PACK MONTEREY Whole White Mushrooms**  
**99¢**  
LIMIT 4

**SAVE \$3.00 LB**

**23.4 - 31.5 OZ SELECTED DiGiorno Pizza**  
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# Malcolm X's Family to File \$100 Million Wrongful Death Lawsuit

*The lawsuit will name the NYPD, New York state, NYC, the FBI and the CIA*

## Data News Staff Edited Report

The family of Malcolm X announced last Tuesday they intend to file a \$100 million wrongful death lawsuit against U.S. government agencies and the NYPD for allegedly concealing evidence related to the assassination of the civil rights leader, who was shot and killed while speaking at the Audubon Ballroom in New York City on Feb. 21, 1965.

Two of Malcolm X's daughters, along with their attorneys Ben Crump and Ray Hamlin, spoke out at a press conference at The Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in New York City last Tuesday, nearly six decades after their father's death.

Ilyasah Shabazz, Malcolm X's daughter, said that the family is seeking "justice" for a man "who



Ilyasah Shabazz, daughter of African-American activist Malcolm X, speaks alongside civil rights attorney Ben Crump and co-counsel Ray Hamlin during a press conference in New York, February 21, 2023. Timothy A. Clary/AFP via Getty Images

gave his life for human rights."

"For years our family has fought for the truth to come to light concerning his murder, and we'd like our father to receive the justice

that he deserves," she said. "The truth about the circumstances leading to the death of our father is important – not only to his family, but to many followers, many

admirers... And it is our hope that litigation of this case will finally provide some unanswered questions. We want justice served for our father."

## Racist Buffalo Gunman Gets Life in Prison after Chaotic Court Appearance

### Stacy M. Brown NNPA NewsWire Senior National Correspondent

An emotional sentencing hearing for the 19-year-old white man who killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo grocery store in 2022 was abruptly interrupted when an enraged man charged at the defendant. Chaos ensued as the sister of victim Katherine Massey spoke to the avowed racist gunman Payton Gendron before his sentence for the racist killings at Tops Friendly Markets on May 14.

"You killed my sister," Barbara Massey screamed out at Gendron. "I will hurt you so bad. I'm not gonna be nice. Kat was my sister. I want to personally choke you out." She chastised the murderer, telling him, "You don't know a damn

thing about Black people. We're human. We like our kids to go to good schools. We love our kids. We never go to no neighborhoods to take people out."

Immediately, an unidentified man wearing a gray running suit leaped toward Gendron, prompting authorities to rush the shooter out of the courtroom. After everyone returned to the courtroom, Judge Susan Egan of Erie County remarked about the tense situation, acknowledging the pain experienced by the victims' families. "We must conduct ourselves appropriately because we are all better than that," Egan said. Gendron then offered an apology and acknowledged his crime.

"I shot and killed people because they were Black," he said. "I believe what I read online and acted out the hate and now I can't take it



Convicted racist Buffalo gunman Payton Gendron

back. I wish I could," he lamented. Last May, Gendron traveled to Buffalo where he admittedly targeted a specific Buffalo zip code that he'd determined was all-or-mostly-Black. He entered the Tops Supermarket and commenced his racially

charged massacre. A document he previously posted online championed the bigoted so-called "replacement theory," so Gendron decided to kill as many African Americans as possible. Egan sentenced Gendron to life in prison.

"There is no place for you or your ignorant, hateful and evil ideologies in a civilized society," Egan told Gendron. "There can be no mercy for you, no understanding, no second chances. The damage you have caused is too great, and the people you have hurt are too valuable to this community. You will never see the light of day as a free man ever again."

Gendron also faces 27 federal charges, including murder and hate crimes. If convicted of those charges, he could get the death penalty.

## DATA CLASSIFIED

Call 504-821-7421 to place your classified ad.

### Job Opportunity

#### Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: [terrybjones@bellsouth.net](mailto:terrybjones@bellsouth.net) and [datanewseditor@bellsouth.net](mailto:datanewseditor@bellsouth.net).

We can't wait to hear from you!

### Job Opportunity

#### Administrative Assistant Wanted

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This space can be yours for only \$80

Call Now!

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# FALL OF THE THINGS I JUST FOUND TOO HARD TO SAY

LAUREN JAUREGUI //  
TRACK 03

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LANGUAGE, FIND THE LYRICS.

USE THEM TO START A CONVERSATION  
WITH YOUR KIDS ABOUT EMOTIONAL  
WELLBEING. LISTEN TO THE ALBUM,  
FIND TOOLS AND GET TIPS FROM  
PROFESSIONALS AT

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